

MILL CREEK 2 AND 3 HYDROELECTRIC SYSTEMS,
MILL CREEK 2 MOUNTAIN HOME CREEK INTAKE
Mill Creek
Yucaipa vicinity
San Bernardino County
California

HAER No. CA-2272-A

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior
1111 Jackson Street
Oakland, California 94607

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

MILL CREEK 2 AND 3 HYDROELECTRIC SYSTEMS, MILL CREEK 2 MOUNTAIN HOME CREEK INTAKE

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Location: The Mountain Home Creek Intake (MHC Intake) is located at Mountain Home Creek, 3,650 feet above sea level, near the intersection of Killcare Road and Coulter Pine Drive in San Bernardino County, California. (USGS topographic map Yucaipa, Section 8; T. 1S., R. 1W.).

Significance: The Mountain Home Creek Intake is a contributing feature to the Mill Creek Hydroelectric System Historic District. The Mill Creek 2 and 3 (MC 2 and 3) Hydroelectric Systems are some of the earliest examples of a high-head hydroelectric system within the United States and one of the first commercial three-phase alternating current stations in California. Three-phase alternating later became the industry standard.

Description: The Mountain Home Creek Intake, is the secondary intake for MC 2, it is located within a residential neighborhood called Mountain Home Village, established before the 1920s. The Intake consists of a poured concrete structure with an angled roof clad with wood planks. The water flows south under a rubble stone wall with a concrete cap/walkway that measures 2' in width. Water from Monkeyface Falls also used to flow into the east end of the intake structure into a concrete channel that measured 3'-6" in width. Originally, there was a dam at this location, but it was removed in the late 1990s. From the Intake, the water originally went into a tunnel located below ground. However, this tunnel collapsed in 1906 and was replaced with a wooden flume ten years later. The new flume was subsequently replaced with a concrete pipe, which continued to be used until MC 2 was closed. The water then continued into above ground 12 inch steel pipes that crossed over Mill Creek and linked to the MC 2 Intake at Mill Creek.⁵⁵ These pipes have broken apart, although sections are still in the creek bed.

History: The MHC Intake was constructed as part of the Mill Creek 2 Hydroelectric System. The MC 2 system was constructed between 1889 and 1899 by the Redlands Electric Light and Power Company and was later absorbed by Edison Electric Company of Los Angeles in 1901. MC 2 has not been in operation since 1992 when it was damaged in a flood. Today MC 2 is owned by Southern California Edison. Please see the Historic Context section in the general Historic American Engineering Record for the Mill Creek 2 and 3 Hydroelectric Systems (HAER No. CA-2272) for additional information.

Sources:

Fowler, Frederick Hall. *Hydroelectric Power Systems of California and Their Extensions into Oregon and Nevada, Water-Supply Paper 493*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1923.

⁵⁵ "Redlands Electric Light & Power Co., Edison Electric Co. of Los Angeles, Mill Creek Powerhouses," op. cit. item number 7, 10.

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White, David R. M. "Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Southern California Edison Company Mill Creek Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1934) San Bernardino County, California," June 1993.

Low, George P. "The Generating, Transmission and Distribution Systems of The Edison Electric Company of Los Angeles, Cal.," *The Journal of Electricity, Power and Gas*. vol. XIII, no. 1. January, 1903.

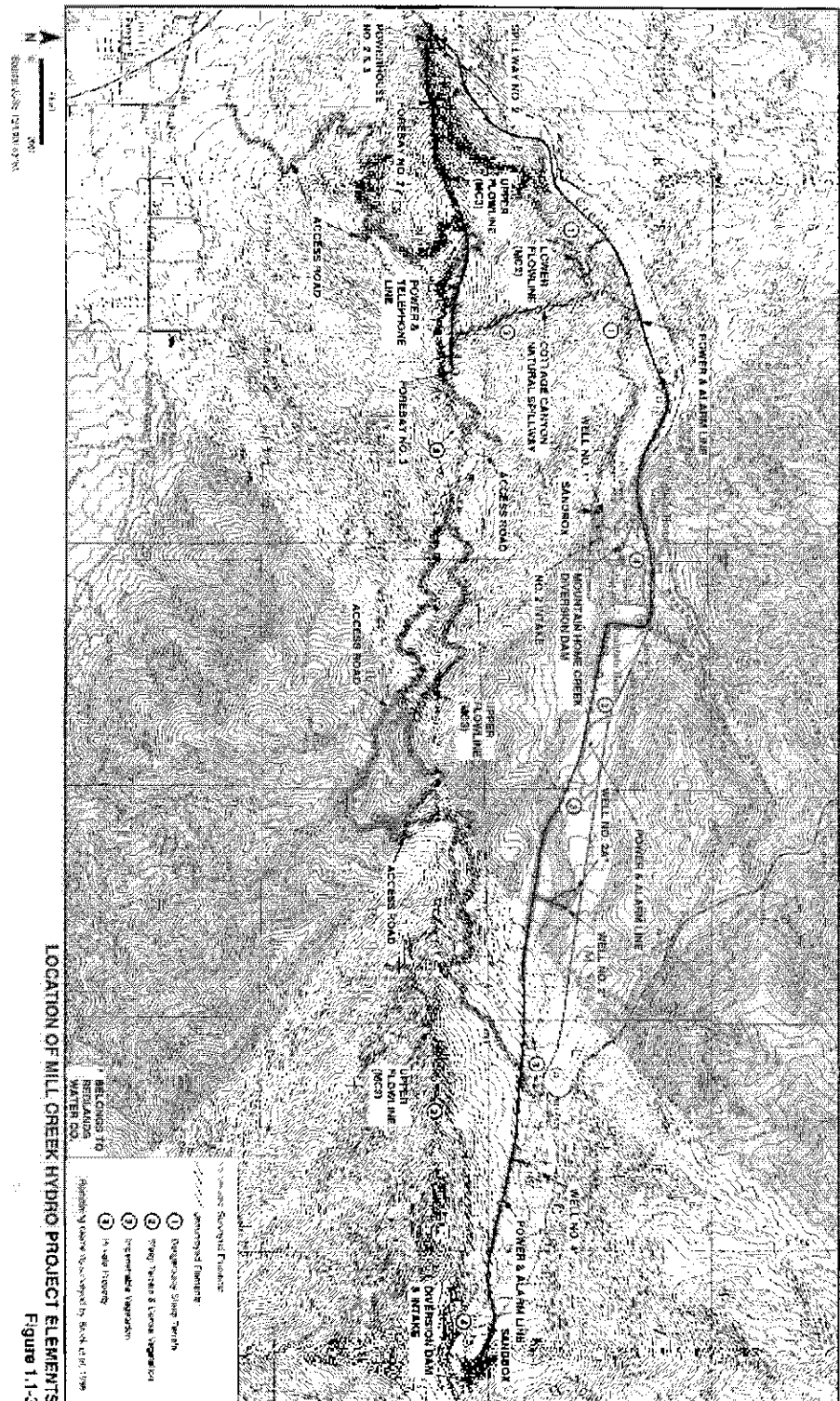
"Means Much to Redlands: Big Light and Power Deal Closed," *Los Angeles Times*. May 25, 1901, 8.

"Redlands Electric Light & Power Co., Edition Electric Co. of Los Angeles, Mill Creek Powerhouses," *National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form*, April 30, 1985, item number 7, 10.

Historian: Christeen Taniguchi, Senior Architectural Historian, and Nicole Collum, Architectural Historian II, Galvin Preservation Associates, 1611 S. Pacific Coast Highway, #104, Redondo Beach, CA 90277, 2008-2009.

Project Information: MC 2 has not operated since 1992 when it was damaged during floods. It was not, however, decommissioned. The Southern California Edison Company, in conjunction with the San Bernardino National Forest, the agency that owns the property, proposes to formally decommission the facility. This process will include filling the sandbox and forebay with slurry, and removing the metal features. Although MC 3 is still in operation, it is also being recorded as part of this project because of the system's close association with MC 2.

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LOCATION OF MILL CREEK HYDRO PROJECT ELEMENTS
Figure 1.1-3

Location of Mill Creek Hydro Project Elements. (Map Courtesy of Southern California Edison)

MOUNTAIN HOME INTAKE KEY PLAN

This plan shows the overall layout of the intake system. It includes a north arrow, a scale bar (0 to 100 feet), and labels for the intake structure, a 12-inch concrete pipe, and a 24-inch concrete flume. The intake structure is located at the intersection of the intake pipe and the flume. The flume is shown as a long, narrow structure with a series of bays. The intake pipe is shown as a curved line leading to the flume. The plan also shows the location of the intake structure relative to the intake pipe and the flume.

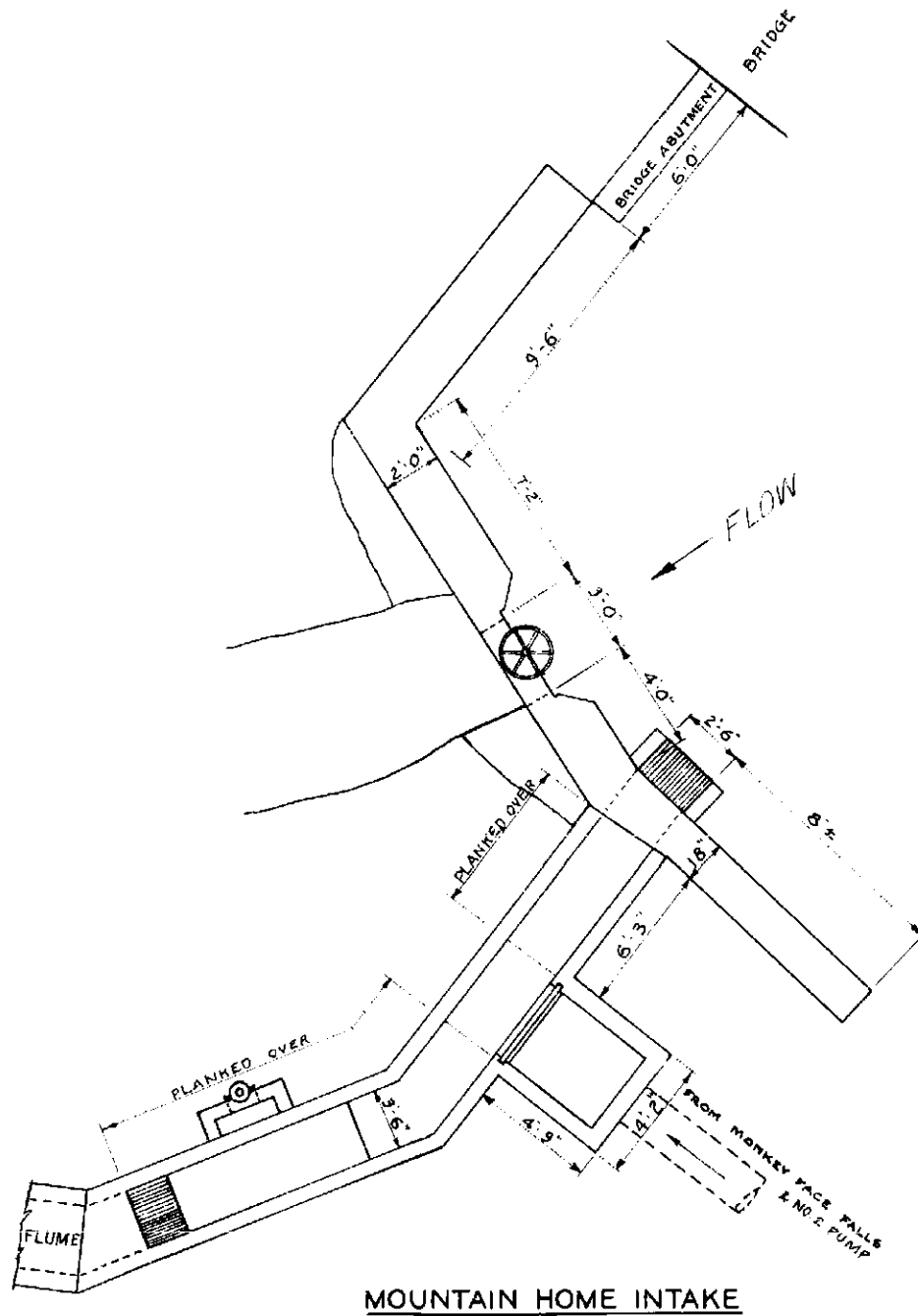
MOUNTAIN HOME INTAKE SITE PLAN DETAIL

This plan provides a detailed view of the intake structure. It shows the intake structure as a rectangular building with a series of bays. The intake structure is located at the intersection of the intake pipe and the flume. The flume is shown as a long, narrow structure with a series of bays. The intake pipe is shown as a curved line leading to the flume. The plan also shows the location of the intake structure relative to the intake pipe and the flume.

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Mill Creek 2 Mountain Intake Site Plan. (Detail Drawings Courtesy of Southern California Edison)



Detail taken from previous drawing of the Mountain Home Intake.